MINUTES

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

FORRTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Cahaba Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

CONCORD BAPTIST CHURCH,

PERRY COUNTY, ALA.,

From the 19th to the 21st October,

1861.

MARION, ALA.:
GEORGE C. ROGERS, PRINTER.
1861

ALASKA MARINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

SATURDAY, October 19th, A. D. 1861.

The delegates from the Churches, composing the Cahaba Baptist Association, met with the Concord Church, Perry county, Ala., according to appointment. The introductory discourse was delivered by Elder H. Talbird, from the 16th chapter of Mark and 20th verse. "And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."

1st. After a recess of three-fourths of an hour the delegates re-assembled. The former Moderator being present opened the Association preparatory to business; prayer by Elder C. J. Crews.

2nd. Letters from the Churches were read by Brethren Joseph W. Morton and L. C. Tutt, and the names of delegates enrolled.

3rd. Upon motion Elder R. Holman was received as delegate from Newbern and Cahaba Churches.

4th. Proceeded to the election of Moderator and Clerk. Brethren D. R. Lide and S. A. Creth were appointed tellers. Elder R. Holman was elected Moderator, and Bro. Wm. S. Miree, Clerk.

5th. Upon motion Bro. Absalom Ford was excused for the evening.

6th. Opened the door for the reception of Churches.

7th. Committee on preaching, Brethren George Hopper, Wm. N. Wyatt, with the Pastor and Deacons of Concord Church.

8th. Called for Correspondence from Sister Associations. See table of Correspondence.

9th. *Resolved*, That this body spend one half hour in prayer to God for our spiritual welfare and for our country, at 11 o'clock, each day during its session.

10th. Upon motion, Bro. Wm. Hornbuckle was excused for the evening, and Bro. James Griffin for the remainder of the session.

11th. Returned Correspondence to Sister Associations. See table of Correspondence.

12th. The following Brethren were appointed delegates to the Alabama State Convention: Elder C. J. Crews, J. E. Prestridge, R. Y. Wood, O. H. Perry, Jos. W. Morton, J. F. Howell, G. P. Leek, W. B. Cureton, J. C. Rodgers, John W. Suttle.

13th. *Resolved*, That the order of business of the last Association be adopted as the order of business of the present.

14th. *Resolved*, That the Association accept the invitation of this Church to commune with them to-morrow.

15th. The Committee on preaching reported as follows: Elder R. Holman at 11 o'clock, in the House; Elder H. P. Griffin at 11 o'clock, at the Stand, to the blacks; Elder J. B. Pool, in the evening to the blacks; prayer meeting, 10 o'clock, A. M.; Elder H. Talbird and C. J. Crews to administer the sacrament.

16th. On motion, adjourned until 9 o'clock, Monday morning. Prayer by Elder S. A. Creath.

SUNDAY.

17th. Pursuant to arrangement Elder R. Holman preached in the Baptist Church, and Elder H. P. Griffin at the Stand, to large and attentive congregations; after which a collection was taken up for Foreign, Domestic and Indian Missions, amounting to nineteen 10-100 dollars. In the afternoon Elders. H. Talbird and C. J. Crews administered the ordinance to about one hundred and fifty communicants. The day was profitably and pleasantly spent, and no doubt that its privileges and benefits will be felt and remembered by many in the great day of final accounts.

18th. Monday morning, 9 o'clock, met pursuant to adjournment; prayer by Elder H. P. Griffin.

19th. The following Committees were appointed, viz: On Temperance, W. C. Buck, S. H. Fowlkes, D. S. Hogue; on Southern Publication Society, John S. Ford, Jno. W. Melton, O. H. Perry; on Foreign Missions, L. C. Tutt, B. F. Boling, Carter Tubb; on Education, H. Talbird, H. P. Griffin, Wm. Hornbuckle; on Domestic Missions, Wm. A. Bishop, B. Holbrook, Jesse M. Heard; on Indian Missions, J. B. Vaiden, J. B. Pool, W. B. Cureton, G. W. Watters; on Bible and Colportage, R. Y. Wood, J. M. Watters, S. J. Miller; on Religious Instruction of Colored People, Jos. W. Morton, S. S Lattimore, C. J. Crews; on Letters and Documents, J. E. Prestridge, Wm. T. Stringfellow, J. F. Howell; on Finance, J. W. Suttle, J. H. Lide, J. C. Rodgers; Auditing Committee, L. C. Tutt, Wm. N. Wyatt, J. M. Massey; on Nominations, George Hopper, Wm. A. Melton, D. S. Hogue, Wm. N. Wyatt, W. M. McCoullough; on Correspondence, S. H. Fowlkes, M. E. Buck, J. Holifield.

20th. Elder R. Holman and Bro. Wm. N. Wyatt were appointed delegates to the East Alabama Convention.

21st. Report on Southern Publication Society, read and adopted. Appendix A.

22nd. Report of Committee on Nominations was read as follows: Elder S. R. Freeman to preach the introductory sermon; Elder John S. Ford, alternate; and Bro. L. C. Tutt, Treasurer for the ensuing year, and adopted.

23rd. Report on Bible and Colportage read and adopted. Appendix B.

24th. Upon motion, the business of the Association was suspended for the purpose of taking up a collection for procuring religious reading matter for the soldiers. The amount contributed was seventeen dollars in cash and two dollars in subscription.

25th. Report on Foreign Missions was read and adopted. Appendix C.

Upon motion, the business of the Association was suspended for the purpose of taking up a collection and subscription for Foreign Missions. Amount secured was ninety-five dollars in subscriptions. Cash, five dollars. Total, one hundred dollars.

27th. The hour of 11 o'clock having arrived, according to previous arrangement, the Association spent half an hour in prayer to God for our spiritual welfare and the welfare of our country.

28th. Upon motion, the roll was called and absentees marked.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.
Bethel,	Bibb,	
Pisgah,	Perry,	Wm. A. Melton, Jos. W Morton, George W. Cosby, Jno. W. Melton, Wm. S. Mirec.
Pilgrims Rest,	Perry,	Absalom Ford, David Gentry, Coleman Logan, A. J. Orr.
Mt. Edon,	Perry,	Jacob Kinerd, Thos. B. Lester, Wm. B. Cureton.
Oakmulgy,	Perry,	George Hopper, O. H. Perry, W. W. Smith, M. C. Curry, G. W. Overton.
Fellowship, Br. Creek,	Perry,	Thos. Curb, Joel Holifield.
Concord,	Perry,	B. F. Boling, G. W. Watters, J M. Watters, James Massey, John White.
Mt. Zion,	Bibb,	Elder H. P. Griffin, J. W. Suttle, Eli P. Crews.
Selma,	Dallas,	J. E. Prestridge.

Medline,	Perry,	S. J. Miller, J. Sewell.
Hepsaba,	Perry,	H. C. Haggard, J. Goocher, J. C. Rodgers.
Macedonia,	Greene,	Dlder J B. Pool, Benton Seal, P. Holston.
Sardis,	Perry,	Carter Tubb, Thos. Junkins, Stephen Caudle.
Bethsaida,	Greene,	Wm. T. Stringfellow.
Union,	Perry,	Elder C. J. Crews.
Mt. Pleasant,	Perry,	Elder John S. Ford, Mark Phillips.
Antioch,	Perry,	John Frasier,
Providence,	Perry,	Elder H. Talbird, James F. Howell, G. P. Leek.
Siloam,	Perry,	Elders R. Holman, H. Talbird, T. W. Tobey, and Brethren Wm. N. Wyatt, J. H. Lide, S. H. Fowlkes, S. S. Lattimore, L. C. Tutt, Wm. Hornbuckle.
Pine Flat,	Perry,	E. P. George, W. M. McCullough.
Hopewell,	Perry,	D. S. Hogue.
Shilo,	Perry,	Wm. S. Prior, Western J. Williams, Jesse M. Heard.
Newhope,	Perry,	J. M. Lawless.
Mt. Pleasant,	Tuscaloosa,	R. Y. Wood, M. E. Buck, Wm. A. Bishop.
Friendship,	Perry,	James Griffin.
Mt. Hebron,	Greene,	B. Holbrook, J. S. Spead.
African Bap. Church,	Mobile,	Elder R. Holman.
Newbern,	Greene,	Elder R. Holman.
Cahaba,	Dallas,	Elder R. Holman.
Mt. Gilead,	Bibb,	J. A. Potts, J. C. Lee.
Salem,	Greene,	
Liberty,	Dallas,	
Uniontown,	Perry,	

29th. Report on Temperance read and adopted. Appendix D.

30th. Report on Domestic Missions read and adopted. Appendix E.

31st. The Treasurers report was read and referred to Auditing Committee.

32nd. Report on Indian Missions was read and adopted. Appendix F.

33rd. Upon motion, the business of the Association suspended for the purpose of taking up subscriptions and contributions for the sup-

port of Indian Missions. One hundred and eighty-seven dollars was subscribed, and twenty-one dollars in cash. Total $208.

34th. Report on Letters and Documents was read and adopted. Appendix G.

35th. Upon motion, adjourned for three-fourths of an hour.—Prayer by Elder H. Talbird.

36th. Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. B. Pool.

37th. Report of Committee on Finance was read and referred to Auditing Committee.

38th. Report on Religious Instruction of Colored People read and adopted. Appendix H.

39th. Report on Education read and adopted. Appendix I.

40th. Report on Correspondence read and adopted. Appendix J.

41st. Report of Auditing Committee which embraces Treasurer's and Financial Cimmittees reports, read and adopted. Appendix K.

42nd. *Resolved,* When this Association adjourn it adjourns to meet with Siloam Church, Marion, Perry county, Ala., adopted.

43rd. Report on Widows Fund read and adopted. Appendix L.

44th. Brethren C. J. Crews, R. Y. Wood and E. E. Trammel were appointed a Committee on Widows Fund.

45th. Brethren Elders T. W. Tobey, Wm. H. McIntosh and R. Holman were appointed to write an obituary notice of the death of our esteemed brother, Elder A. G. McCraw, and other deceased ministers, to be published with the Minutes.

46th. *Resolved,* That the Cahaba Baptist Association, now in session, recommend the Churches within her bounds to observe first Sabbath in November next as a day of fasting and prayer, in behalf of our bleeding country and for the success of her arms. Adopted.

47th. Brethren Wm. A. Melton, Wm. S. Miree, Jacob Kinerd, B. F. Boling and C. C. Smith were appointed Executive Committee for the ensuing year.

48th. The Letters of Correspondence to the Unity and Bigby Associations was read and adopted.

49th. *Resolved,* That fifty dollars be appropriated for printing Minutes, and twenty-five dollars to the Clerk for superintending the printing and distributing the Minutes, and the ballance be paid over to the Indian Misson cause. Adopted.

50th. The Moderator announced the Chairman of the following Standing Committees: On Education, Elder T. W. Tobey; on Temperance, Bro. J. W. Morton; on Foreign Mission, Elder Wm.

H. McIntosh; on Domestic Mission, Elder C E. Brame; on Indian Missions, Elder S. R. Freeman; on Sabbath Schools, Bro. Wm. A. Bishop; on Religious Instruction of Colored People, Bro. L. C. Tutt; on Southern Baptist Publication Society, Elder M. T. Sumner.

51st. Elders T. W. Tobey, Wm. H. McIntosh and R. Holman to exrmine the manuscript of the Clerk preparatory to printing.

52nd. *Resolved,* That this Association return their sincere thanks to the citizens of this community for their kind and christian hospitality to its members.

53rd. The Association having disposed of all the business before it, a hymn was sung and prayer was offered by Elder R. Holman. Adjourned with the joyful hope that if we should not meet again in this world to enjoy each others society in such heavenly places here below, we will meet in that world where parting and sighing shall be no more.

R. MOLMAN, *Moderator.*

W. S. MIREE, *Clerk.*

TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE.

ASSOCIATIONS.	DOCUMENTS.	MESSENGERS.	MODERATORS.	CLERKS.
Alabama,....		Eld. S. A. Creath, D. R. Lide,	D. Lee,	
Mulbery,....	Let. & Min.	B. C. Barrett,	Daniel Ward,	J. A. Mullins.
Tuscaloosa ..	Letter,.....		John Thomas,	C. Manley.
Pine Barren,.	Let. & Min.		J. C. Jones,	C. W. Hare.

TIMES OF HOLDING THEIR SESSIONS.

ASSOCIATIONS.	CHURCHES.	TIME OF SESSION.
Alabama,....		Friday before the second Sabbath in October, 1862.
Mulberry,....	Haysop Church, Scottsville,.	Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1862.
Tuscaloosa,..	Concord Church, Fayette Co.	Saturday before the third Sabbath in September, 1862.
Pine Barren,.	Pineville, Monroe County,...	Saturday before the second Sabbath in September, 1862.

CORRESPONDENCE RETURNED.

ASSOCIATIONS.	DOCUMENTS.	MESSENGERS.
Alabama,....		Elders M. T. Sumner, H. Tabird, and Brethren O. H. Perry, G. W. Overton.
Mulberry,....		Elders H. P. Griffin, J. B. Pool, and Brethren J. W. Suttle, Stephen Caule.
Tuscaloosa,..		Brethren R. Y. Wood, M, E. Buck, Wm. H, Bishop.
Pine Barren,.		Elder H. Talbird.
Unity, ...	Letter, ...	Elders W. Wilkes, M. T. Sumner, H, Talbird.
Shelby,.....		Brother J. E. Prestridge.
Bigby, ...	Letter, ...	Brother J. H. Lide.

CHURCHES AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	POST OFFICES.
Bethel,	Bibb,	Centreville.
Mt. Gilead,	"	"
Mt. Zion,	"	"
Hepsaiba,	Perry,	Pinetucky.
Pisgah,	"	Perryville.
Pilgrim's Rest,	"	Ford's Mill.
Concord,	"	Radfordsville.
Friendship,	"	Oakmulgy.
Oakmulgy,	"	Summerfield.
Providence,	"	Hamburg.
Shilo,	"	Chesnut Hill.
Selma,	Dallas,	Selma.
Liberty,	"	Orrville.
Cahaba,	"	Cahaba.
Mt. Edon,	Perry,	Marion.
Pine Flat,	"	Perryville.
Fellowship, Brush Creek,	"	Brush Creek.
Hopewell,	"	Marion.
Siloam,	"	"
Union,	"	"
Mt. Pleasant,	"	"
Sardis,	"	Ironville.
Antioch,	"	Greensboro'.
Salem,	Greene,	"
African Baptist Church,	Mobile,	Mobile.
Mt. Pleasant,	Tuscaloosa,	Havanna.
Macedonia,	Greene,	"
Bethsada,	"	Greensboro'.
Newhope,	Perry,	Five Mile.
Newbern,	Greene,	Newbern.
Medline,	Perry,	Chesnut Hill.
Uniontown,	"	Uniontown.
Mt. Hebron,	Greene,	Havana.

[A] REPORT ON SOUTHERN PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

As to the late operations, and the present condition of this society, your committee have no information further than this:—The Society at this time is without a Secretary, and has been for about twelve months. This, no doubt, embarasses the Society, and very materially cripples it in its operations, and is much to be regretted by its friends, especially at a time when its utmost ability to do good should be in full force. If it was ever questionable as to the paramount importance and imperative demands for such an institution for our denomination, and the people at large, in the South, or the Confederate States of America, it can no longer be so. We, as a

people, not only need an efficient Institution of this character to furnish our Churches and the people generally with religious and valuable reading, but now when there are congregated upon our borders not only thousands and tens of thousands but hundreds of thousands of our fellow men in the tented fields unfurnished with that character of reading which would promote piety in the camps, and lead the impenitent to repentance, and the mourner to Christ, your committee would suggest to this body that she approve of the measure recommended by the Southern Baptist Convention at her last session, that is, that the Publication Society at Charleston, S. C., and the Bible Board at Nashville, Tenn., be united and combined into one, if practicable.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN S. FORD, *Chairman.*

[*B*] REPORT ON BIBLE AND COLPORTEUR CAUSE.

Your committee on the Bible and Colporteur cause would report that on the 1st day of November, 1860, the Alabama Bible and Colporteur Society, located at Selma, was placed in a state of liquidation, and the accounts, subscriptions and stock, amounting in all, according to the Treasurer's report, to $7,866.73, has been turned over to the Alabama State Convention, under whose charge it is believed it will prove more efficient than before.

Your committee would most respectfully commend this branch of christian enterprise to the favorable consideration of the Association.

That it is the duty of every christian to aid in giving the word of God to the poor and destitute none will deny, and yet it is to be feared that many christians do not give it that attention which its importance demands. The Bible, itself encourages, yea, urges us to send it forth as the messenger of peace to a dying world.

It would be impossible to calculate the amount of good that has already been done through this organization, and your committee are of opinion that at no period since the organization of the society in our State has the claims been greater upon it, or the opportunity for doing good so favorable as at the present time. Many of our ministers have taken positions in our army, thereby leaving many Churches without the usual supply of preaching; and thousands of our sons, brothers and countrymen are congregated in large bodies at different points, and many of them destitute of all reading matter, and without the means or opportunity to procure it. With these facts before us, are we not urgently called upon to make an earnest effort to aid, by every means within our reach, to supply the destitute at home, and especially to avail ourselves of this most favorable opportunity of presenting to every destitute soldier a copy of the Bible and such other religious reading matter as we may be able to obtain.

In order to effect the objects above contemplated, your committee would respectfully recommend the following resolutions:

Resolved 1st. That the Association recommend to the Churches

composing this body to make an earnest effort to raise funds as early as practicable to aid in procuring Bibles, religious Tracts, &c., for the use of our soldiers.

Resolved 2nd. That in view of the scarcity of religious reading matter the delegates urge their several Churches to collect all religious Tracts, books, and surplus Bibles and Testaments within their several localities, and place them in the hands of some suitable person to be forwarded to our army for distribution.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. Y. WOODS, *Chairman.*

[C] REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your committee on Foreign Missions regret that their sources of information are too limited to allow them to go into a detailed report of the operations of this department of christian effort since the last meeting of your body. From the best information they can obtain there are now in the employ of the Foreign Board about 60 missionaries and teachers engaged in Central Africa, China, Japan and Liberia; and others have been recently appointed. All the Missions are in a prosperous condition, and, in those far distant lands, are bringing forth fruit to the honor and glory of God. To meet an enquiry which has been made as to the manner of transmitting funds to the missionaries, we will state that arrangements have been made by the Board with the British Consul at Richmond for this special purpose, and that no difficulty need be apprehended, and none exists as regards the necessary facilities for accomplishing this object. Seeing then brethren that the Foreign Board is prosecuting its labors with energy, that there are no hindrances to the transmission of funds, and that God is smiling upon and blessing the labors of the missionaries by turning the heathen from nature's darkness to the light and liberty of the gospel, what reason have we for withdrawing from this cause our prayers, our sympathies, our money? In view of these facts should we not make sacrifices to sustain it, feeling that it is approved by God and that failing to support it we should be acting against his will, and rendering inefficient an important instrumentality for establishing his glory upon the earth.

We would also suggest that we can more certainly expect the blessing of God to be bestowed upon our *people and government* as well as upon ourselves spiritually by continuing our aid to this and other causes which seem to be manifestly owned, and blessed of him, and that our duty in this respect should be a matter of prayerful consideration. We would therefore earnestly recommend that the Board should be sustained, and that increased efforts and sacrifices be made by the denomination for this purpose.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

L. C. TUTT, *Chairman.*

[D] REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

In discharge of the duty assigned your committee, the following is respectfully submitted:

It is the duty of all men, and especially of christians, to be temperate in all things: but the term is now more especially used to signify an abstenance from the use of intoxicating drinks. The sin of drunkenness, besides entailing untold earthly misery and shame upon its victims, effectually shuts out the soul from heaven. It is the duty, therefore, of every philanthropist, and especially of every christian, not only to be temperate himself, but to use his best efforts to promote the habit in all others. It is not only the duty of individual christians, but of Churches and other conventicles of christians to put forth their best exertions to promote the cause of temperance among the people at large. The annual efforts of your body in this behalf is, therefore, commendable. But, in the opinion of your committee, all your reports and speeches upon this subject, will utterly fail to promote a temperance reform among the masses, so long as by a loose discipline the Churches retain among their membership those who are known to be habitually or occasionally intemperate. Until the Churches relieve themselves of these dissipated members, it is useless for the Association to repeat their reports on this subject; because they only provoke the costic retort from the world. "Physician, heal thyself."

As an indispensably necessrry step to any further efforts, by the Associatien, to promote a temperance reform among the masses, your committee respectfully suggest the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That in consequence of the laxity of discipline in many of our churches, intemperance has become so common among their members as to dishonor Christ and to disarm those Churches of their legitimate instrumentality for good, and also to render the efforts of this Association to promote the cause of temperance in the world, hopeless and abortive.

Resolved, Therefore, that we urge upon the Churches the importance of beginning the temperance reform among themselves; and when, by a vigorous and healthy discipline, they have expelled their dissipated members, then we may hope, through their agency, to promote habits of temperance among the unconverted.

Respectfully submitted.

WM. C. BUCK, *Chairman.*

[E] REPORT ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

The mission of our Saviour to this world was one of mercy and love. He came to seek and to save the lost. Your committee know of no plan or christian enterprise that may be employed with more hope of success in thus carrying out the spirit of the gospel advent than our Home and Domestic Missions. The field assigned the Board of Domestic Missions embraces the Slave States, the District

of Columbia and California. The object of this Mission is but to be understood to gain the approbation of every christian mind, and to win its hearty cooperation. Until recently more than 100 missionaries have been scattered all over this vast field of labor, whose mission was to distribute Bibles, organize Sabbath Schools, institute and supply Churhces, and to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ to the Colored people, the poor and destitute neighborhoods, to the Germans and the Chinees in California.

They had, under their superintendance, 100 Sabbath Schools, and supplied more than 500 Churches, and their labors of zeal and love were annually crowned with the salvation of more than 2,000 souls.

The commercial and political crisis through which we are passing has so much reduced the receipts of the board as to render it necessary to withdraw all of those missionaries and agents except less than twenty-five—thus leaving some three hundred and fifty churches without any pastoral supply and depriving thousands of persons of the only means of hearing the glad tidings of life and salvation.

In view of all these painful facts, your committee have no new plan to suggest no resolutions to offer, but would affectionately remind you of our blessed Savior's words, "Freely ye have received freely give"—and "if ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

Respectfully submitted.

WM. A. BISHOP, *Chairman.*

[*F*] REPORT ON INDIAN MISSIONS.

Your Committee beg leave to report, That the subject committed to them has been duly considered, and the more reflection they bestowed upon it, the more fully convinced were they, that, however important Indian Missions may have been estimated at any previous time by their most ardent friends and admirers, yet, no period in their history has presented them in *so* important and so *critical* a condition as we *now* find them.

We are all aware perhaps of the sufferings which the *people* of the Indian Territory, experienced during the last twelve months from a great destitution of bread, nor were our Missionaries among them entirely exempt from the troubles and privations attendant upon such a calamity. These, however, were greatly mitigated by the extra efforts of the Churches and the Board in behalf of our brethren, and the aid thus timely rendered enabled the Board to keep the Missionaries in their respective fields where they have been and are still laboring in the cause of their Divine Master, with a zeal and fidelity most truly commendable when the difficultics by which they have been and are yet surrounded, are properly understood and appreciated.

But ere we had recovered from the effects of one pressure, another succeeds of still greater weight which threatens to extinguish the very life of our Missionaries by depriving them of the staff on

which they mainly rely for existence. War, horrible war, the child of Wickedness, is drinking up the springs of all our benevolent and Chistrian operations, and extinction to them all is seriously to be apprehended. Our money, labor and toil which have been expended in efforts to convert the "Redman" of the forest are now in imminent peril of being an almost total loss to us for the want of funds to support and retain, at their posts, those who are preaching among them the unsearchable riches of Christ. This sad disaster should be prevented if possible. And in order that it may, we would call upon every friend of humanity and every lover of the Redeemer's cause to come to the rescue and render that assistance which the exigency of the case demands.

We have now thirty-one Missionaries and eight Interpreters engaged in the Indian field, and from the last Official Report we gather these among other facts, showing that we have a most laborious and indefatigable set of workmen teaching and instructing this (to us) interesting people. "Churches and Stations among them, 171; sermons and addresses delivered, 3,454; Indians baptized, 180; Colored persons baptized, 18; Meeting-houses commenced, 5; Churches constituted, 12; Ministers ordained, 11; Temperance Societies formed, 3; pages of Tracts distributed, 3,362." Thus we find that everything which is good is being done by these, our beloved brethren.

And now, in view of the happy effects resulting from the labor of these servants of our blessed Master, who will withhold his mite to retain them in their present positions?

But there are two other facts to which your committte would particularly invite the attention of the Churches composing this Association. The first is, the property we hold among the tribes with whom we are laboring is ours only by actual occupancy. This we learn from a recent letter of Bro. Sumner, one of our Secretaries. Now, if the Missionaries are not supported and suffered to remain upon the premises, but are recalled for the want of funds, then, the property will fall into other hands and that without any remuneration to us as a denomination. The question is left to Southern Baptists to answer whether or not this shall happen?

The second fact is, the Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws and Cherokees (and the Seminoles are expected) have, by recent treaties, agreed to assist the Confederate States in their struggle for Southern Rights against Northern oppression, and thus have cast in their fortunes and future destiny with ours. And, from a letter lately published by Bro. Buckner we make the following extract: "You (we) are not aware of your (our) indebtedness to the labors and influence of Southern Missionories for the consummation of the present satisfactory treaties, &c." These Indian warriors are already in the field, prepared to defend that cause which we hold dearer than life itself, or die in the struggle.

Your committee could easily enlarge upon this subject, showing the claims this people have upon us as Stutherners—but they are

atisfied that brief reports as possible are very desirable on all topics requiring your consideration as an Association, and, therefore, they refrain from saying more, believing enough has already been said to arouse every friend of the Indian to a proper reflection of this matter, and that all who are interested in the subject of Indian Missions may bestow that reflection and then contribute according to their ability to the support of our dear brethren in that hard field of labor, is our sincere prayer.

Respectfully submitted.

ISAAC B. VAIDEN, *Chairman.*

[*G*] REPORT ON LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS.

The committee on Letters and Documents beg leave to report:

1st. Sardis Church has ordained Bro. Carter Tubb to the gospel ministry.

2nd. Shilo Church has liberated Brethren Isaac Thomas, Western J. Williams and Jesse M. Heard to exercise their gifts in preaching the gospel.

3rd. The Siloam Church at Marion, Perry county, Ala., request the next Association to be held with them.

4th. Hepsaba Church has liberated Brethren Henry O. Haggard and John C. Rogers to exercise their gifts in preaching the gospel.

5th. Selma Church has lost, by death, her Pastor, Rev. N. L. DeVotie.

6th. Oakmulgy Church has lost her Pastor by death, Rev. A. G. McCraw.

7th. Pisgah Church has liberated Bro. John W. Melton to exercise his gift in preaching the gospel.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. E. PRESTRIDGE, *Chairman.*

[*H*] REPORT ON RELIGIOUS INSTRTCTION TO THE COLORED PEOPLE.

Your committee feel that this is a subject of no minor importance, and regret that a want of time and inexperience in the matter have, necessarily, deprived their report of many useful and practical suggestions that should be herein contained.

It is manifest that there is a want of interest on this subject in many portions of our country, on the part of those with whom rest heavy responsibilities, in consequence of the number and character of the servants, or slaves, in their charge and under their control. No one can, for a moment, doubt the practical and beneficial results to our servants from a well devised system of religious instruction—unless, indeed, we admit the erroneous doctrine that ignorance better fits a man for moral or social position than does *wisdom* or *knowledge*. That it is the duty of the owners or keepers of servants to instruct them in the blessed truths of the Bible which pertain to their salvation, is evident from the fact that, should the said owners

or keepers refuse to perform this righteous function themselves, or to admit others to the discharge thereof, the door to this holy mission would be virtually barred by the law of the land. From the peculiarity of the institutions of our country, these instructions must, of necessity, be given *orally*. Whether this can best be done by preaching, in the ordinary manner, or by reading and expounding the Scriptures, after the manner of Catechisms, we leave for the Association, in its wisdom, to determine. We would recommend that the Churches of the respective neighborhoods, in which this class of persons resides, select the time and place at which they should assemble for the purpose of receiving the said instructions.

The command, "Go teach all nations," is as obligatory now as when it first fell by inspiration from the great I Am; and especially is it binding on those of us to whose charge or keeping this class of human beings has been committed. That they have souls to be saved or lost, and that their owners are the agents or instruments in the hands of the Almighty God for their redemption or final condemnation, is a fearful truth, which not only the history of the negro race but our own observation clearly proves. That, as a race, they can be civilized or enlightened to the same degree with the white man, we do not argue—but, we do contend, that they are responsible human beings, with some degree of intelligence—endowed, by nature, with a sufficiency of reason to distinguish between truth and falsehood, between good and evil—and that they are capable of receiving instruction in the glorious "plan of salvation." Thus they may become heirs to God, and joint heirs with our Lord Jesus Christ—the Holy Spirit descending and filling their poor, benighted souls with that *love*, of which our first parents were the happy recipients, in the embowered precinct of Eden's cooling shade.

Then, my brethren, with a view to both the condition and capacity of this people, let us go to work with a zeal worthy the cause, that God may be glorified, and their eternal happiness finally secured. Let all the means of grace, possible, be placed within their reach, that they may be made happy in the love of God in this life, and, as they pass into the chambers of the dust, may entertain the hope of salvation in the world to come.

God grant that in the great day of accounts it may be said of us as an Association, as well as individually, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom," for "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. W. MORTON, *Chairman.*

[*1*] REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your committee beg leave to report:

Whoever has noticed the events of the last 20 years cannot have failed to observe the increasing interest manifested by the Baptist denomination in the cause of christian education. We of Alabama

have shared large in this feeling. Among us, however, it has exhibited itself principally in the cause of female education Hence, large and flourishing female colleges have, as if by magic, sprung into existence in almost every part of the State. Among the first of these was the Judson Female Institute, founded by the munificence of the brethren of this Association. We rejoice to learn that even amid the hardness of the times that this Institute is enjoying very nearly its usual degree of prosperity. It is still our duty to nourish and support this noble offspring of our liberality—to prop it around with our sympathy and prayer that it may continue, as it has been, a blessing to the denomination. We are gratified in knowing that Prof. N. K. Davis possesses the entire confidence of the Trustees and Patrons of the Institution.

There are a number of High Schools and Academies, in various parts of the State, for the education of boys and young men. They are all enjoying a greater or less degree of prosperity. They are doing a good work, the extent of which naught but the disclosures of eternity can fully reveal.

At the session of the Convention held in Talladega, November, 1841, measures were taken to estsblish an Institution for Collegiate and Theological education. This was the origin of Howard College, located in Marion, Perry county, Ala. For a long time the College labored under the embarrassment of an inadequate endowment.—Within a few years, however, there has been a constantly deepening conviction, in the denominational mind, of the importance of this Institution. Our people were coming up nobly to the measure of their responsibility to the cause of Collegiate and Theological education, when the fiendish war which is now desolating our borders burst upon us. We are still persuaded that in a few years complete success will crown our labors, and that Howard College will stand out a noble monument of the liberal minded munificence of our denomination.

Your brethren are aware that the committee on Education, appointed at the close of your last session have failed to report. Your present committee have not had the time to prepare such a document as the importance of the subject demands. We can only say that education is a sacred interest which we, as Baptists, are bound to favor and promote by every reasonable means. The religion of the gospel is the great saving influence which has descended to our world directly from heaven, and nothing but this, as a ligament binding society to the throne of God, can save it. But education is the vehicle of religion, and of all means employed for its furtherance —*aside from the immediate preaching of the gospel*—education is the most powerful and efficacious. To save our denomination from the incubus of ignorance and superstition, and to make it the leading christian influence upon earth, we must depend first upon the teachings of the gospel, and the spirit of God; but next to these is the education of our youth. Even under the most favorable circumstances it is not the work of a day nor a year to establish a College..

It requires time and labor, amidst a thousand discouragements and perplexities. Much remains to be done before Howard College can become all that you desire it to be. But only persevere and complete success will crown your labors, and reward you for all your sacrifices, and your most sanguine hopes be fully realized.

Respectfully submitted.

H. TALBIRD, *Chairman.*

[J] CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Cahaba Baptist Association to the Delegates of Sister Associations—sendeth Christian Salutations—

DEAR BRETHREN: This Association met on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in October, 1861, with Concord Church, Perry county, Ala.

We have nothing of special interest to communicate. The usual degree of prosperity has not been experienced by our Churches during the Associational year just past. Owing mainly, we think, to the political distraction that now pervades our country. Yet, while we have to deplore this great national evil, we are pleased to see our Churches are at peace with each other, and that brotherly love and harmony prevails.

There appears to be a general desire manifested to use extra efforts to promote the Redeemer's cause, in view of our afflictions. To this end we would affectionately invite your cooperation in calling frequently at the throne of grace and beseeching our heavenly Parent to dispel the clouds that now hang over our political horizon.

Our next Association will be held with the Siloam Church, at Marion. Ala., and would be pleased to receive Corresponding Messengers from your bodies.

That your deliberations may redown to the glory of God, and that peace and harmony may prevail among you, is the sincere wish of this Association.

S. H. FOWLKES, *Chairman.*

October 21st, 1861.

[K] REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE.

1860. WM. B. LAWSON, *In Account with Cahaba Association.*

To cash for Minutes,	$57 50	
" " Associational fund,	27 75	
" " On hand,	5 00	
" " Foreign Missions,	30 92	
" " Domestic Missions,	41 42	
" " Indian Missions,	10 00	
" " Widows fund,	113 20	
" " Beneficiaries Howard College,	16 00	
" " W. B. Lawson,	50 00	
" " W. N. Wyatt's subscription,	15 00	
		$366 79
CR. By voucher No. 1,	$163 34	
" " " " 2,	113 20	
" " Miree's order for Minutes,	57 50	
" " Miree's as Clerk fees,	25 00	
" " Cash on hand,	7 75	
		$366 79

All of which is submitted.

W. B. LAWSON, *Treasurer.*

October 19th, 1861.

We, the Auditing Committee, have examined the above accounts and vouchers and find them correct.

W. N. WYATT,
L. C. TUTT,
J. M. MASSEY, } *Committee.*

October 21st, 1861.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

Your committee on Finance beg leave to report that they have received,

For Minutes,	$57 25
" Association fund,	29 10
" Widows fund,	2 50
" Contributions on Sabbath,	19 10
" Bible and Colportage for Soldiers,	17 00
Subscription by Brothers Ford and Crews for Foreign Missions,	2 00
Cash paid to Brother Creath,	5 00
Subscriptions for Foreign Missions,	95 00
And for Indian Missions, cash,	21 00
And by subscription,	197 00
	$434 95

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JNO. W. SUTTLE.

We, the Auditing Committee, have examined the above and find it correct.

W. N. WYATT,
L. C. TUTT,
J. M. MASSEY, } *Committee.*

October 21st, 1861.

[*L*] REPORT OF WIDOWS FUND.

Your committee on the Widow and Orphan's fund of the deceased Ministers in the bounds of this Association, beg leave to report:

On examination we found no Widows and Orphans except Sister Sumner and Sister Tubb. We, as a committee, agreed to divide the funds received from the Association equally between them. Amount received from the Association $108.20. Paid to Sister Sumner, $54.10; paid to Sister Tubb, $54.10, which was thankfully received by them. Your committee would further state that they have a good crop of corn.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. J. CREWS,
R. Y. WOOD.

[*M*] REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES.

Since the last meeting of the Association, it has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from us, by Death two of our esteemed and beloved Pastors, Rev. A. G. McCraw and Rev. Noble L. DeVotie.

Brother McCraw was for many years the Moderator of the Association and presided over its deliberations with uniform dignity and kindness. The place which he occupied in the hearts of his brethren will not be soon nor easily filled. He was ever affable and considerate of the feelings of his brethren, and gentle and quiet in his demeanor,—so living, among his fellows, as strongly to attach them to himself and to lead them readily to believe that he was truly a follower of Him who was "meek and lowly in heart."

Zealously devoted to the cause of Christ, he was ever ready to engage in all enterprises devised for the well being of man and the glory of God.

His labors as a minister of the gospel were commenced in early life, and continued, almost without intermission, until his last sickness. In his loss—his family mourn for the departure of an ever kind and affectionate relative,—the community that, of one who was always ready to listen to its call for aid, and the Church, that, of an active and useful minister of the gospel.

The Committee recommend the adoption of the following:

Whereas, it has pleased the Great Disposer of Human Events to remove from our midst one, who for many years, was our presiding officer,

Resolved, That while we bow in submission to the hand which has afflicted us, we cannot forbear expressing our sense of the great loss which has befallen us in the death of brother McCraw,—we feel that he has left us an example of devotion to the cause of Christ, which is worthy of imitation, and we desire to record upon our Minutes our high appreciation of the value of his services as a minister of the gospel and our love to him as a brother and fellow workman."

By the death of brother Noble L. Devotie, the Church has lost a devoted and energetic Pastor who was taken away in the very commencement of his labors, while the dew of youth was upon his brow and before his plans for usefulness could be fully matured. To us it is a mysterious Providence, that one so eminently qualified, and who bade fair to prove more than ordinarily useful as a minister should have been so soon taken from us, yet we will bow submissively to Him who is just in all his ways and who doeth all things well. We will not repine even if he shall take from us our choisest treasures.

We may say of brother Devotie in the language of another: How rich is the legacy bequeathed by such a Christian to his mourning relatives, compared with that legacy many a young man leaves of a tarnished name and wasted powers and a *lost life*.

T. W. TOBEY, *Chairman*

[*N*] CAHABA MISSION.

This Mission continues to prosper. Brother J. W. McCollough is the missionary. During his term, this year, he has preached 36 sermons, traveled 235 miles, and baptized 15 converts. This enterprise was started in 1854 by the liberality of Bro. W. A. Melton. The interest on his donation sustains a Missionary a portion of each year. According to the last report of the Missionary the following Churches have received, at sundry times, the benefits of this mission —Pilgrim's Rest, Mt. Zion, Hepsaiba, Friendship, Fellowship, Pine Flat, Mt. Gilead and Medline. The aggregate additions to these Churches, as the fruits of these labors since 1854, is as follows: Received by letter 176, by baptism 289, restored 20. Total 485.

Of the above named Churches Mt. Zion, Hepsaiba and Pine Flat are reported as able to sustain themselves.

Mt. Gilead Church, which had been dissolved before the commencement of this mission, has been reorganized, has received considerable accessions, built a house of worship, and furnishes other pleasing indications of prosperity.

Statistics of the Cahaba Baptist Association.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	PASTORAL SUPPLY.	Rec'd by Bap.	Rec'd by Letter	Dis'd by Letter	Excommun'ed	Restored	Deceased	Total	Minute Fund	Asso'l Fund	Total
Bethel	Bibb	James W. McCullough							48	$1 00	$0 50	$1 50
Pisgah	Perry	John S. Ford	49	10	9	3	1	2	240	3 00	2 00	5 00
Mt. Edon	Perry	C. J. Crews		3	3	1			67	1 00	1 00	2 00
Fellowship, Brush Creek	Perry	John S. Ford		2	13				134	2 00	1 00	3 00
Concod	Perry	John S. Ford	4		1			1	178	2 00	1 00	3 00
Friendship	Perry	William L. Cochran	3	7	2	2			87	2 00	1 00	3 00
Pilgrims Rest	Perry	C. J. Crews	10			5		2	117	1 00	1 00	2 00
Hepsaba	Perry	James W. McCullough	17	8	5	3		1	117	2 00	1 00	3 00
Oakmulgy	Perry	J. U. Wilkes			17	6	1	3	200	2 00	1 00	3 00
Liberty	Dallas								200			
Cahaba	Dallas	R. Holman							69	1 00	1 00	2 00
Mt. Zion	Bibb	John S. Ford		4	4	1		1	67	2 00	2 00	4 00
Bethsaida	Green	James B. Pool	2	2					49	75	75	1 00
Mt. Pleasant	Tuscaloosa	S. B. Robertson	6		3				103	1 50	1 00	2 50
Siloam	Perry	William H. McIntosh	2	6	11				799	6 00	4 00	10 00
Sardis	Perry	J. H. Hagler	7	8		2	1	2	82	2 00	1 00	3 00
Selma	Dallas		20	9	8	2		2	325	3 00	2 00	5 00
African Baptist Church	Mobile	William Spence	8	1	4	1	1	4	338	5 00		5 00
Macedonia	Green	James B. Pool						1	32	1 50		1 50
Shilo	Perry	James W. McCullough		4	3				131	1 50	1 50	3 00
Union	Perry	C. J. Crews			2		1		54	1 00		1 00
Providence	Perry	H. Talbird	20	2	9	1		1	225	2 00	3 00	5 00
Hopewell	Perry	S. R. Freeman		9	4				217	2 50		2 50
Pine Flat	Perry	J. H. Weatherly			1				31	1 00	1 00	2 00
Antioch	Perry	C. J. Crews			2				45	1 50		1 50
Uniontown	Perry	L. L. Fox							507			
Mt. Gilead	Bibb	J. F. Brazzel		2	2	1		1	43	1 50	50	2 00
Newhope	Perry	J. P. Thompson			3			1	45	1 50		1 50
Mt. Pleasant	Perry	H. P. Griffin	1	1	2	1			81	1 50	1 00	2 50
Newbern	Green	R. Holman							205	2 00		2 00
Medline	Perry	J. S. Adams	2	2	2	1			62	1 50	50	2 00
Mt. Hebron	Green	C. E. Brame							25	1 00	1 00	2 00
Salem	Green								602			
		Total	151	80	110	30	5	22	5525	$57 25	$29 75	$87 00

NOTE.—There being no Letters from Salem, Greene County; Liberty, Dallas County; Cahaba, Dallas County; Newbern, Greene County; Uniontown, Perry County, the total numbers of their Churches set down in the Table same as last year.